



Food Lifeline’s goal is to elevate the issue of hunger with candidates during the election cycle. Each candidate for state and federal office received our questionnaire. For every candidate that replied, their original responses are presented as submitted. See results at foodlifeline.org/advocacy.

Emily Wicks	Candidate for State Representative, District 38, Position 1 (Everett)
<p>In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?</p>	<p>Ending hunger should not be a partisan issue. Food insecurity is a symptom of a variety of intersectional issues, so we need a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of poverty, systematic racism, and climate change. Our first line of defense should be to adequately fund and increase access to government nutrition assistance, but longer term we need to look at policy to improve our food systems, not only making them sustainable and less wasteful, but also equitable for the workforce involved. We need to have a comprehensive approach that includes addressing housing issues (which I have outlined my approach on my website), supporting living wage jobs, ensuring education is equitable and fully funded, providing affordable quality health care, and more. I want to reevaluate these sectors, institutions, and economic systems that not only lead to poverty but perpetuate it.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?</p>	<p>It is impossible to ignore the class and racial inequalities that have been exacerbated by both the pandemic and climate change, and how public health, jobs, and access to services and education are all intersectional. COVID-19 isn’t creating a disparity, it’s shining a light on it. As leaders, I believe we must begin to reconcile with the fact that most of our long-established laws, policies and precedents have been steeped in systemic racism. Racial inequities still exist throughout our state and region and it’s going to time to undo the policies and practices that cause inequities, and this is why we must work to be anti-racist in our approaches to housing and areas of health and human services. As an elected I’m committed to doing this. We must change and adapt existing systems to create equity and prevent people from being left out or pushed out. This starts with listening, learning and seeing things with a different lens. All organizations need to commit to finding gaps and inequities that have not been addressed. Decision-makers need to take a hard look at budgets and investments to see if money is going to the backend rather than prevention. We invest far more in people AFTER they</p>

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How will you address the role of government and taxes during your campaign and address this issue in the legislature should you be elected? Specifically, are you supportive of tax code reform? Taxing capital gains in Washington state? And funding the state's Working Families Tax Credit?

enter the justice system or develop health issues, and we must stop looking at people as the problem and begin to look at systems that continue to set people up for failure rather than success. I will help shift resources to reflect our values around humanity and equity. We need both a strong safety net and policies that expand opportunity and reduce poverty, and I believe in investing in prevention and long term solutions.

The budget shortfall due to the COVID-19 Pandemic will be the biggest issue that we must address to move our progressive values forward. Most groups are going to be working hard to ensure their priorities and efforts don't get defunded as we work to shore up resources. Working to prevent cuts to critical services starts with closing tax loopholes, and I am committed to being vigilant in doing that more so than I've seen happen in years passed. This session should be bad news for well-funded lobby groups, and not those working to provide basic needs and support our most vulnerable. We need to prioritize our people, families, workers and the vulnerable so they are healthy, housed, safe, and have the necessary financial resources to be active partners in helping our small businesses, regional industries, and overall economic recovery. As we continue to face budget shortfalls and a regressive tax system, finding new sources of funding will be one of our greatest challenges and I commit to seeking progressive revenue avenues to pay for investments in essential programs, services, and housing. While an income tax would be more equitable, I am in favor of revenue sources like a Capital Gains Tax, a Carbon Tax, anti-speculation taxes, or a state tax similar to the Tax Excessive CEO Pay Act. The ability to purchase stocks, bonds, commercial real estate properties, or start a business takes an investment which is often only available for those with existing wealth. Those individuals' ability to take their gains and continue building assets simply continues to consolidate individual wealth, taking from communities as a whole and giving very little back. A capital gains tax helps put all our people back into the economic system and gives everyone the opportunity to climb the economic ladder and find the American Dream. To me, these things are common sense, but the Carbon Tax failed and the Capital Gains Tax continues to face barriers. I am committed to strategically moving these

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items forward in the years to come and I hope you can help me identify the best methods for shifting opposing opinions and helping communicate the overall benefits to our regional and statewide voter populations. I also wonder if there is an opportunity to collect funds from specific industries that create potential risks to public health, or industries that could benefit from healthier communities such as health insurers. I welcome ideas here as this is important to me. I also look forward to collaborating with our congressional representatives to push for federal funding that helps our economy recover, but long term I believe we must evaluate our upside-down tax code. In this state, we have more than 200,000 millionaire households, yet we have the most regressive code in the country where the poorest and the middle class pay a proportionately greater amount of their income than those well over self-sufficiency wages. As we help our communities get back on track, we have a choice: We can continue to build an economy that works for big corporations and the elite, or we can rebuild an economy that works for everyone. I am committed to addressing this challenge and taking important and meaningful steps to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share.

Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?

Not only are our farmworkers regularly exposed to neurotoxins and pesticides, as you mentioned, but they are also now at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 due to reports of inadequate PPE, close working conditions preventing necessary social distancing, and poor living conditions that don't meet safety and health standards. As essential workers continue risking their lives as they work through a pandemic and wildfires, and we cannot forget about them. I know several of my colleagues are working hard to stay in touch with farm worker communities and advocates and are keeping our Caucus up to date on concerns and issues while the crisis continues and we are not yet in session. I will support and do what is possible as a state leader to require the agricultural industry to adopt new and improved safety precautions and enable a reporting system that is equitable, safe and protects worker jobs so they don't fear retribution for reporting. I will support and promote opportunities for rapid testing and quarantienning measures that are equitable, safe and help with rest and recovery. If opportunities and funds are made available, I suggest that

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	<p>the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industries and a Department of Enterprise Services Loss Prevention Department to work hand in hand with industries struggling with COVID-19 due to their existing systems and structures to help them identify how they can better improve their safety structures while ensure production continues. We know there is a connection between maintaining the quality of life for workers and a business economic success and it might be wise to approach these businesses in this way so that there is buy-in and incentive to do more.</p>
<p>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</p>	<p>As I mentioned earlier, we cannot ignore the class and racial inequalities that have been exacerbated by both the pandemic, and how public health, jobs, and access to services and education are all intersectional. COVID-19 isn't creating a disparity, it's shining a light on it. Beyond my previously mentioned priorities concerning funding and improving access to safety net, I am a strong supporter of creating economic driving infrastructure improvements or projects that utilize living wage jobs, and investing in educational pathways to create a local workforce pipeline to help provide greater equitable opportunities for lifting local students out of poverty who may not be able to afford traditional college. Housing is another arena that not only needs a collaborative approach, but also a significant investment in affordable and supportive housing. I'd also like to add that it's important that we have housing-first policies. When someone has a roof over their head and stability around where they lay their head at night, they are in the right space to jump to the next step, and work toward and acquire a stable job with a livable wage that provides them with the means to contribute to the economy. I will help my communities create spaces that ensure people have safe and stable places to sleep, set goals and accomplish tasks. We need to invest in multiple levels of housing options that meet different incomes and avoid straining levels of shelter that pushes people out. I will do this through smart investment in local projects, securing grants, gaining federal dollars, and finding and shifting state dollars to keep people in their homes, or access to shelter so they can reach the next step.</p>
<p>Yes/No Section</p>	
<p>If elected, will you insist proposed</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?	
Will you commit to implementing the state Food Policy Forum's recommendations to mitigate the agricultural symptoms of climate change and to help farmers adapt?	Yes
Will you commit to supporting efforts to reduce wasted food if you are elected?	Yes
Do you believe that every human being deserves physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life?	Yes

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